

duction in the balance of trade. Over \$100,000,000 of the increase in imports was accounted for by the United States alone; as exports to that country increased by approximately \$40,000,000, the net loss incurred in trading with the United States between January and May 1949 was \$60,000,000.

Canada's imports during May continued their upward trend. Purchases from the United States showed substantial increases over last year, while smaller gains were recorded for imports from the United Kingdom and Europe. Imports from Latin America showed a decline.

The increase in the value of imports from the United States was from \$145,000,000 in May last year to \$172,100,000 this year. This raised the United States share of total Canadian imports from 64 per cent last year to 69 per cent. During the five months imports from the United States reached \$832,000,000, 72 per cent of total, as compared with \$729,600,000, or 70 per cent, in the five months of last year.

IMPORTS FROM U.K.

Goods valued at \$29,500,000 entered Canada from the United Kingdom in May. This was approximately \$2,000,000 higher than in May last year. Comparative totals for the five months were \$136,300,000 in 1949 and \$113,100,000 in 1948.

Imports from other European countries increased moderately from \$7,200,000 in May last year to \$8,100,000 this year, raising the aggregate value from \$22,300,000 to \$35,700,000 in 1949. Canada bought more in the month from Belgium and Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. Lower purchases were recorded from France, Denmark and Spain.

Among purchases from Commonwealth countries, imports from Australia were down slightly in the month, but over the five months had risen from \$7,200,000 last year to \$8,900,000 in 1949. Those from New Zealand increased during the month from \$608,000 last year to \$1,900,000 this year, while the five months total showed little change being \$4,400,000 last year and \$4,600,000 this year. Canada bought \$7,500,000 worth of goods from the British West Indies in May as against \$6,700,000 last year. The comparative totals for the January to May period were \$18,900,000 compared with \$14,000,000 last year. Increases were recorded for Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica, which offset declines from Barbados and British Guiana. Imports from India fell from \$7,000,000 in May of last year to \$2,500,000 this year. Ceylon, British Malaya, the Gold Coast, and Fiji all showed increases in May.

Venezuela, chiefly due to heavier purchases of petroleum, accounted for more than half (\$9,300,000) the value of imports from Latin American countries in May. There were sharp reductions in imports from Brazil, Cuba and Mexico. These movements, with an assortment of lesser gains and losses, brought down

total imports from Latin American countries in May from \$18,500,000 last year to \$16,900,000. In the five months our imports had fallen from \$87,400,000 to \$70,500,000 this year.

CIVIL AVIATION APPOINTMENT: Promotion of Charles Tindal Travers, A.F.C., to the position of Superintendent of Air Regulations of the Civil Aviation Division of the Department of Transport (Air) was announced on July 26 by the Civil Service Commission with the concurrence of the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chervier. Mr. Travers succeeds Stuart Graham, A.F.C., who was recently appointed Canada's official delegate to the Air Navigation Commission of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

RETAIL TRADE HIGHER: With sales of motor vehicles and lumber and building materials leading in size of gains, retail trading during May continued the upward trend shown in the first four months this year.

Total volume of retail sales in the month amounted to \$654,000,000 as compared with \$615,000,000 in May last year, a gain of 6.3 per cent, according to the monthly estimate by the Bureau of Statistics. The May gain compares with eight per cent for the first four months, the smaller increase in the month being partly attributable, the Bureau's report says, to the month having only four Saturdays as against five in 1948.

Sales in the first five months totalled \$2,869,530,000 as compared with \$2,670,890,000 last year, a cumulative gain of 7.4 per cent.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP: Department store sales rose three per cent during the week ending July 16 over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. All regions of the country participated in the rise except Manitoba. Sales in the Maritime Provinces advanced 14 per cent, followed by a rise in Alberta of 10 per cent, Saskatchewan nine per cent, British Columbia six per cent, Ontario two per cent, and Quebec one per cent. Sales in Manitoba declined 11 per cent.

SWEDISH SCHOLARSHIP: The Department of External Affairs announced on July 26 that the Swedish Government has offered a scholarship to be awarded to a Canadian citizen for study at a recognized Swedish university. Men and women with an appropriate university degree are eligible.

The scholarship is intended to run between September 1, 1949, and May 31, 1950. The total value of the scholarship is \$1277. Out of this amount, the sum of \$444 is to be used to cover travelling expenses to and from Sweden.